

IN THE CLAIMS

1-2 (canceled).

3. (currently amended) A refining element for application to a refiner for the treatment of fibrous material comprising an inner edge, and a pair of side edges defining a refining surface, an inner portion of said refining surface proximate to said inner edge, and an outer portion of said refining surface displaced radially outwardly from said inner portion thereby defining a transition region between said inner portion and said outer portion, a plurality of first bars and intermediate grooves disposed on said inner portion of said refining surface, said plurality of first bars extending substantially from said inner edge of said refining element to said transition region, and a plurality of second bars and intermediate grooves disposed on said outer portion of said refining surface, said plurality of first bars having a greater width than said plurality of second bars, said transition region having a varying distance from said inner edge of said refining element across said refining surface.

4. (previously presented) The refining element of claim 3 wherein said transition region is arc shaped over said refining surface.

5. (previously presented) The refining element of claim 3 wherein the distance from said transition region to said inner edge of said refining element increases continuously from one of said side edges of said refining element to the other of said side edges of said refining element.